

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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DRAFTED BY PM/NPO;GOPLINGER/RW

APPROVED BY PM/NPO:LNOSENZO

NEA - INS - MR. KUX

NEA/PA - MR. SHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. TRATTNER

D - MR. TICE

IO - MR. CAVANAUGH

S/S - APSHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TECH

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON SOVIET HEAVY WATER TO INDIA

1. FOLLOWING ARE Q'S AND A'S APPROVED FOR USE IN
RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ON RECENT PRESS ARTICLES
CONCERNING SOVIET SUPPLY OF HEAVY WATER TO INDIA.

2. Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS AGREED TO
SELL 200 TONS OF HEAVY WATER TO INDIA?

A. WE HAVE SEEN WHAT THE PRESS HAS REPORTED. WE HAVE
NO REASON TO DOUBT IT.

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF US/INDIA NEGOTIATIONS ON THE
CONTINUED SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL FOR USE IN
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INDIA'S TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION?

A. THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER CONCERNED AGENCIES, IS EXPLORING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE GOI UNDER WHICH US-SUPPLIED FUEL THAT HAS BEEN IRRADIATED IN TAPS MIGHT BE RETURNED TO THE US. OUR DISCUSSION WITH THE INDIANS TO DATE HAVE BEEN USEFUL, BUT A NUMBER OF FINANCIAL AND LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE SOLVED.

Q. WHAT IS THE US POSITION ON THE PENDING USSR SALE OF HEAVY WATER TO INDIA?

A. THE US HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH OTHER SUPPLIER COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN THE MOST EFFECTIVE POSSIBLE SAFEGUARDS TO ASSURE AGAINST POSSIBLE DIVERSION TO NON-CIVIL APPLICATIONS. WE DO NOT WANT TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THIS REPORTED TRANSACTION AT THIS TIME.
ROBINSON

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